

Message Text

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43

ACTION EB-11

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 AEC-11 AID-20 CEA-02 CIAE-00

CIEP-02 COME-00 FEA-02 FPC-01 H-03 INR-10 INT-08 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-07 OMB-01 PM-07 RSC-01 SAM-01 SCI-06

SP-03 SS-20 STR-08 TRSE-00 DRC-01 /154 W

----- 060435

R 250945Z APR 74

FM AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8503

INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMCONGEN MUNICH

DIA WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L BUCHAREST 1750

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, RO

SUBJECT: PITESTI OIL REFINERY BLAST CAUSES SERIOUS DAMAGE

REF: BUCHAREST 1739

1. AMERICAN FIRM ENGINEERS WORKING AT SITE OF EXPLOSION AND FIRE IN PITESTI REFINERY/PETROCHEMICAL COMPLEX TOLD EMBOFF THAT ACCIDENT TOOK PLACE IN OLEFIN PYROLYSIS UNIT OF PETROCHEMICAL SECTION WHICH WAS CONSTRUCTED IN 1969 UNDER TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE CONTRACT WITH WEST GERMAN FIRM LURGI. ACCORDING TO SOURCE, ROMANIAN TECHNICIANS HAD NOTICED CONSIDERABLE VIBRATION IN KNOCK-OUT DRUM AND HAD REPORTED THIS TO WEST GERMAN ENGINEERS; IT WAS THIS COMPONENT WHICH EVENTUALLY FAILED CAUSING EXPLOSION. UNIT IS CONSIDERED PRACTICALLY TOTAL LOSS AND AS RESULT AN ESTIMATED 50 PERCENT TO 75 PERCENT OF THE INDUSTRY'S FEEDER STOCK OF ETHYLENES HAS BEEN CUT OFF. THE UNIT NORMALLY FEEDS ABOUT 5 OR 6 OTHER UNITS IN VARIOUS PARTS OF THE COUNTRY. WITHOUT INFORMATION ON AMOUNT OF STOCKS ON HAND OR ABILITY OF ROMANIANS TO PURCHASE ON WORLD MARKET IT IS DIFFICULT TO ESTIMATE LONG RANGE EFFECT ON PRODUCTION. US ENGINEERS ESTIMATE THAT UNIT COULD POSSIBLY BE PLACED BACK ON STREAM IN SIX MONTHS
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DEPENDING ON SPEED WITH WHICH GERMAN FIRM CAN DELIVER SPECIALTY

EQUIPMENT AND CONTROLS.

2. U.S. SOURCE AGAIN CONFIRMED NO REPEAT NO INJURIES OR LOSS OF LIFE AMONG AMERICAN PERSONNEL.

3. DEFENSE ATTACHE OBSERVED PLANT ON APRIL 24 AND SAW NO APPARENT MAJOR EFFORTS AT IMMEDIATE DAMAGE CONTROL OR REPAIR; REFINERY PORTION OF PLANT APPEARED TO BE IN FULL OPERATION.
BARNES

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PETROLEUM, REFINERIES, EXPLOSIONS, FIRES, BUILDING DAMAGE
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 25 APR 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: BoyleJA
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974BUCHAR01750
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740097-1003
From: BUCHAREST
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740416/aaaaanfd.tel
Line Count: 70
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EB
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: BUCHAREST 1739
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: BoyleJA
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 08 MAY 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <08 MAY 2002 by elyme>; APPROVED <26 MAR 2003 by BoyleJA>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PITESTI OIL REFINERY BLAST CAUSES SERIOUS DAMAGE
TAGS: PINT, RO
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005